

# Basic English Study Guide

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## Introduction

I AM Texas Missions. I am Texas Missions because being a part of missions shaped who I am today. I am Texas Missions because I pray for Texas Missions, and I give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas missions..

“I am Texas Missions” is bigger than just me. As sisters and brothers in Christ, we are a family. As Texas Baptists we are a special family. A family that is committed to God’s mission. The Texas Baptist family is God’s hands and feet in our world, state, and neighborhood. We are Texas Missions. So how are WE Texas Missions? God brought us to Texas. We are to serve where we are. We are to serve in Texas. It is an honor for us to be part of God’s plans! During our study we are going to learn ways we can all be Texas missions.

This year we will learn about missions you can be involved in, pray for, and give to. You will see and understand how you are Texas Missions.

This year you will learn about 3 different missions. These are missions that you can pray for and give to. These are missions you can be involved in. You are Texas Missions when you help these missions.

## Session Goal

Learn how God is using the Mary Hill Davis Offering® to make a difference. Understand that “I am Texas Missions” is more than a theme. It is a way of life. It means that we are sharing life in Christ in big and small ways. Learn specifically about:

- Philippi Church
- Border Community Outreach, and
- Camp Fusion

# Session Preparation

## For the Week of Prayer Focus

*(THE CHURCH WIDE PLAN CAN ALSO BE USED WITH THE BASIC ENGLISH MATERIALS DOWNLOAD AT [IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG/ORDER](http://IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG/ORDER))*

- Download more materials from [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).
- Plan to tell the church about Texas Missions and the Mary Hill Davis Offering®.
- As a church, pray and ask God for a goal for your church to give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering®.
- Put up the church poster that is mailed to the church. Write in the goal for your church on the poster.
- Use the prayer guides for two Sundays - September 10 and September 17.
- Have special prayer times for Texas missions. This can be in worship or in Bible Study or choir groups.
- Present the information and videos in the worship service.
- Have a computer, video projector and screen /monitor.
- If you have 45 minutes to one hour for a special class– This can be for the whole church, a women’s group, men’s group, Bible Study group or Youth group.
  - Have a cell phone to record a video
  - Paper and pencil to write out a play

# Session Plans

Here are some ideas. Share the Mary Hill Davis Offering® emphasis with the whole church. Use one or all the ideas in your church. You may also want to create your own plan just for your congregation. Sharing in your worship time is a great way to let everyone in the church learn about this offering. The whole church can learn together. Set aside 5 minutes on 3 September Sunday services. Present one ministry each Sunday.

Show the video that matches each story by downloading the video [HERE](#).

## Idea One

### Have a Missions Meal

Provide food from Mexico. During this meal show videos of the 3 Ministries highlighted. Have a special time of Prayer for the ministries. OR you could invite a speaker to come and talk about one of the ministries highlighted in the *Mary Hill Davis Offering®* Week of Prayer.

## Idea Two

### Special Time of Prayer

Show one of the *Mary Hill Davis Offering®* Videos. Gather in groups of 2-5 to pray together for that ministry. Have the Pastor guide the prayer time. Have some prayer points on a slide to guide prayer time.

## Idea Three

### Get your youth and children involved

Watch/read about the highlighted ministries. During a Children/Youth meeting, have the youth write a play about one of the ministries. Create a video about:

- someone coming to know Jesus at Camp Fusion
- feeding people in a border community and telling them about Jesus
- prisoners studying God's Word, talking about it and praying together
- perform a dance that tells about one of these ministries

Have the youth record the play with a cell phone. Play the youth's video for your church. Promote the Mary Hill Davis Offering® with the video the young people made.

## Ministry Focus

### Philippi Church

Philippi Churches are churches in prisons. There are Philippi Churches in almost 100 Texas Prisons. Philippi churches are more than prison ministries. Philippi churches are led by prisoners. They are prisoners called by God to lead other prisoners. The groups gather daily to pray, worship and study God's Word. Philippi Churches want to be missionaries inside prisons.<sup>1</sup>

Ricardo is a prisoner in a Fannin County jail. He is from Guatemala. He was arrested in Guatemala for drug trafficking. God's rule and power took over his life. God gave Ricardo a vision. He is to be a missionary to his fellow prisoners. He is an active leader in the Philippi Ministry. Ricardo takes courses to help him learn to teach the Bible. He leads a group in his dorm. They meet daily for Bible study, prayer, and spiritual talk. Ricardo is a young man. The other men look up to Ricardo. Even those who are older men. During COVID Ricardo still led the church. Outside Pastors could not go to the prison. Ricardo was already there. He kept his Philippi Church going.<sup>2</sup>

Thank God for Philippi churches. Pray that more prisoners can learn about Jesus. Pray for Ricardo as he leads the Philippi Church in his prison. Thank God for The Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions. It provides Bibles, training, and other resources for the Philippi churches. Your gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering® help prisoners to know Jesus.

### Border Community Outreach - BCO

Border Community Outreach (BCO) is part of the River Ministry of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. BCO works with 42 River Ministry Missionaries. Some are on the US side of the Mexico-Texas Border. Some are on the Mexico side of the Border. The BCO ministers to immigrants crossing the Mexico-Texas Border. Both sides work as a team. Last year they served refugees from over 55 countries. They helped about 50,000 people. People from South America, Africa, Haiti, Cameroon, Korea and others. They help Moms, Dads, and families. They tell them about Jesus. BCO works with refugees seeking asylum. They work with the "least of these," Matthew 25:40-45.

BCO does many things to help refugees. They have Comedores, which are places to give out food. They give food to students, homeless people, and families. The Border Community Outreach has medical teams. There are dentists, doctors, nurses, and surgeons. The BCO helps the asylum seekers who are crossing the border. The BCO helps in many ways.

One day a Christian Women's Shelter contacted the BCO. The Shelter leaders came to the border. They saw the work that was going on. They wanted to help the BCO. They said, "If you have women who need help, let us know. We want to help." A week later a mom came with her three children. Her husband and oldest son were killed in Honduras. She fled with her other children. She had nowhere to

go. She was in danger. The BCO contacted the shelter. They came and got the woman and her children. They kept her safe. They helped her find her sister. Her sister was baptized because of her story.

Pray for the Border Community Outreach. Pray that refugees will know God's Love. Pray for refugees' safety as they cross the border. Pray for the pastors and missionaries who help them. Your gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering® help refugees. Your gifts help the least of these.<sup>3</sup>

### **Camp Fusion**

Camp Fusion is a Summer Youth Camp. It was formed from two youth camps. African Camp and Asian Camp. Camp Fusion is for first generation immigrant/refugee youth. Youth from all over Texas come to Camp Fusion. Youth from many different cultures come to Camp Fusion. Last year 246 youth from 19 intercultural churches went to camp. Camp Fusion helps youth deepen their faith. Camp Fusion helps train young Godly church leaders. Sylvia and Chris are church leaders who God has raised up through Camp Fusion.

Sylvia is the youth director at First African Baptist Church. Sylvia has been going to African Camp since she was a high school senior. Sylvia says, "I was inspired by two things. The camp was for first generation Africans, like me. The camp leaders were not much older than I was. The camp leaders were sold out to the Lord. I knew I wanted to be a Godly leader." Sylvia says, "Camp Fusion is special. First generation youth share their culture and struggles. They connect with each other. They find their true

identity in Christ. For some, they find their calling as leaders. Camp Fusion helps to train these leaders. They are the next generation of church leaders."<sup>4</sup>

Pastor Chris wouldn't be a Pastor if not for Camp Fusion. Pastor Chris says, "My story isn't that different from many others. I grew up in a Christian home. I went to church every Sunday. But I was just going through the motions.

In the summer after high school, I attended Camp Fusion. At Camp Fusion the Lord spoke to me through the speaker. He said that we were lucky. We could share the gospel with our friends. In the classrooms. In the hallways. In our locker rooms. This hit me really hard. I had graduated. I no longer had that chance." Pastor Chris says, "Because of that day at Camp Fusion my life changed. Now I live each day looking for ways to be used by God. I am a Pastor now partly because of Camp Fusion. My story is like many others. Coming face-to-face with the gospel always leads to a new life in Christ."<sup>5</sup>

Pray for youth at Camp Fusion to know Jesus. Pray for them to be leaders in their churches. Thank God for second generation Christian Leaders. Thank God for the Mary Hill Davis® Offering for Texas Missions. Your gifts to Mary Hill Davis Offering help youth find God's path for them.

***For more information about the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions, visit [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).***

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# About the Writer

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## Linda Howell

*Linda Howell is a member of Murphy Road Baptist Church, Murphy. She works with the Intercultural Churches at the Baptist General Convention of Texas. She enjoys reading, riding her bike, and spending time with her family.*



## Mary Hill Davis

*Mary Hill Davis, president of Texas WMU from 1906 to 1931, saw Texas as a rich harvest field with its mixture of Anglo, Black, European, and Mexican populations. In 1910 she led the Baptist women of Texas to set aside a week to pray for the needs in the state and to take up an offering as was done for foreign and home missions. Following her death in 1934, the Texas missions offering was named in her memory.*